

organised to discuss this issue because this has arisen because of the decision of the Supreme Court; and in that all party meeting of leaders, the Government will not hesitate to discuss this issue.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Thank you. Shri Ram Naik.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK (MUMBAI NORTH): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the famous scam of Chaitan Ram Bhansali i.e. C.R.B. capitals. Common man, the small investors have lost Rs. 1200 crores by way of investment in the C.R.B. Capital who so ever is responsible for it whether it is SEBI or the Reserve Bank or the Ministry of Finance each one of them is blaming the other for that. It is just passing on the buck. Presently there are about 37,000 non-banking financial companies working in the country. Today itself it has been stated in a reply during the question Hour that 10 million thousand crore people have invested in them. In that regard one scam has come to surface.

But SEBI has not properly discharged its duty in this case. The Reserve Bank had granted their permission in principle to establish a global bank. Now when the whole scam has come to light the Ministry of Finance. The Finance Minister is present here, so he may please pay attention that his Department has given exemption for Esteem bond on March 15, 1997. Earlier we used to say that

[English]

In Government, the right hand is not knowing what the left hand is doing

[Translation]

but now we have come to a situation when one finger does not know as to what is being done by the other finger of that very hand.

We met the Prime Minister twice regarding this matter. A delegation of M.Ps from Mumbai met him. The Prime Minister had given an assurance that he would look into the matter. We put forth three demands. While telling about the first one we told him that the lessons were derived from the security scam but

[English]

those lessons have not been learnt by the Government.

[Translation]

In the earlier scam a bank had been involved but in this scam, small investors have been entrapped. Therefore, a Joint Parliamentary Committee might be constituted to probe into the C.R.B. Capital Scam. At that time the Prime Minister had said

[English]

"I am not averse to such a Committee"

[Translation]

Therefore, I demand that a Joint Parliamentary Committee be constituted to look into this matter. Secondly as per the existing provisions of law, the bankrupt party before going into actual liquidation, has to pay at first the Government dues. It, being so the small investors will not get anything. Therefore my second demand is that out of the money realised from the CRB Capital through the liquidator, payment should be made first to the small investors and then to anybody else. Care should also be taken to ensure that there is no recurrence of this type of incident and to achieve that end it may be ensured that out of the total amount of deposit kept in all such non-financial banking companies, at least an amount upto Rupees two lacs should be kept as an insured amount in the same way as it is done in case of Bank deposits. This is my demand and as the Prime Minister is not present in the House I would like to know as to what action is proposed to be taken by the Finance Minister in this matter. He may kindly apprise the House about it ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Sir, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance is here. He may say something about this matter ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): I have taken note of it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has said that he has taken note of it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK: Please stand a while to speak so that the entire House may come to know about it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has stated.

SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ: I have noted down your points.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (PATNA): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the flood situation in several districts of Bihar State.

Recently, almost every area in Bihar state experienced floods due to heavy rains and farmers had to face a lot of difficulties and losses. Patna, Darbhanga, Madhubani, Katihar and Supaul are the places where the floods wreak havoc every year. I went to meet the hon. Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture as well, in order to draw their attention towards this problem.

Bihar has suffered a loss of crops worth crores of rupees due to floods. You are requested to provide assistance to compensate that. But as per my knowledge, so far nothing concrete has been done by the Govt. in this direction and as a result, the farmers are facing a lot of difficulties. The seeds, which were sown, have been